

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) A metal halide lamp for a vehicle headlamp comprising:

a cylindrically-shaped discharge vessel (3; 13; 23; 33) along a longitudinal axis (10),

said discharge vessel (3; 13; 23; 33) having a ceramic wall (43) which encloses a discharge space (42) comprising Xe and an ionizable filling, and

a cylindrically-shaped outer bulb (1; 11; 21; 31) surrounding the discharge vessel (3; 13; 23; 33) along the longitudinal axis (10),

characterized in that

a portion (25, 26; 35, 36) of the surface of the outer bulb (21; 31) facing away from the discharge vessel (23; 33) is shaped as a negative lens.

2. (original) A metal halide lamp as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the portion (25, 26; 35, 36) with respect to the longitudinal axis (10) encompasses a segment of the outer bulb (21; 31) with a segment angle α in the range between $20 \leq \alpha \leq 110^\circ$.

3. (currently amended) A metal halide lamp as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that the portion (25, 26) forming the negative lens comprises a flat surface.

4. (currently amended) A metal halide lamp as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that the portion (35, 36) forming the negative lens comprises a curved surface which is less curved than the curvature of the remainder of the outer bulb (31).

5. (currently amended) A metal halide lamp as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that a first and a second portion (25, 26; 35, 36) of the surface of the outer bulb (21; 31) facing away from the discharge vessel (23, 33) are shaped as a negative lens.

6. (original) A metal halide lamp as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the first and the second portion (25, 26; 35, 36) are at opposite sides of the outer bulb (21; 31).

7. (original) A metal halide lamp as claimed in claim 5, characterized

in that the transition between the first portion and the remainder of the outer bulb defines a first plane (25A; 35A),

in that the transition between the second portion and the remainder of the outer bulb defines a second plane (26A; 36A), and

in that the first plane (25A; 35A) and the second plane (26A; 36A) make an angle with respect to each other which is equal to or less than 10° .

8. (original) A metal halide lamp as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that at least one of the portions (25, 26; 35, 36) forming the negative lens has anti-reflective properties.

9. (currently amended) A vehicle headlamp comprising a reflector (50) and a metal halide lamp (51) as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~.

10. (original) A vehicle headlamp as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that the portions forming the negative lenses are oriented in the direction of portions of the reflector creating a cut-off between the illuminated area and the glare area according to requirements for automotive passing beam patterns.